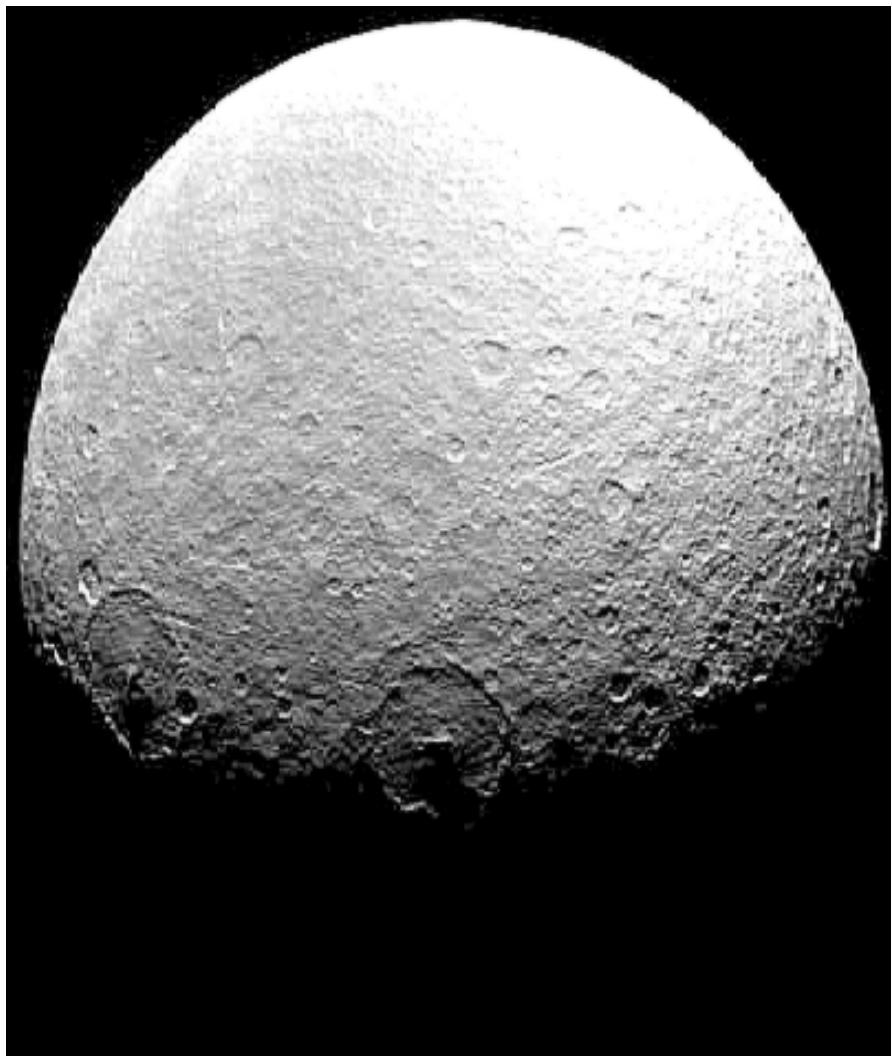


The

SCAM

pace coast area ensa



Volume 24, No. 10

October, 2006



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.scam.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



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All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. All submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

Page Three

Mike Moakley, Editor

Political Correctness is simply not my bag. I make no bones about it. This is true whether I am writing my opinion column, writing this column or putting together this newsletter. A recent event prompts me to (again) restate The SCAM's publication policy.

The SCAM accepts, even *encourages*, contributions of just about any kind, and will publish just about any opinion on any topic. Two obvious exceptions are personal attacks (especially on another member) and any material that is indecent or pornographic in nature. All SCAM members are always encouraged to write for The SCAM. This invitation is extended to their family members as well.

The SCAM is normally twenty-four pages to thirty-two pages (including the covers) in length. It is laid out in four-page increments. Often, after everything has been received and included in an issue, there may be 1 – 3 pages left to fill. When that happens, I will sometimes look to other local Mensa publications for articles of interest. Finding one, I obtain the necessary consent, and publish it. When choosing such material, I actively seek those pieces that are thought-provoking; they are often controversial and may or may not reflect my personal opinions.

Top priority is given to material mandated by our bylaws, such as a monthly calendar of events, meeting minutes, and the like. Next are contributions by SCAM members. All other material have the least priority. One other item worth mentioning is that the right to reply to any of the published material is preserved. This is not only *my* policy; it is consistent with SCAM's bylaws. I'm sure most who read The

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The SCAM sells classified ad space. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

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SCAM notice a good deal of controversy in many of the published articles. This is no accident. As Editor, I believe the quality of a newsletter fitting for a group such as ours ought to provoke lively, open and honest debate over issues of the day.

Of course, the downside to such a policy is that occasionally someone will be offended. Yes, even in Mensa, there are those among us who believe that if they do not agree with a viewpoint, that view should not be expressed. This, of course, brings us to the reason for the topic of this column.

On Labor Day weekend, I received a copy of an e-mail message sent to the National Office from a relatively new member requesting she be assigned to another local group, because she was embarrassed to be associated with our newsletter, due to (as she saw it) my editorial policy of promoting hatred and fear-mongering toward Muslims. Although (she stated) she was not a Muslim or from the Middle East, she could not in good conscience be associated with us. This is based on the following facts.

The July issue ran a column from John F. Snyder of Miami Mensa, entitled "Islam and Freedom", which was critical of Islam. John Ritsema (at his request), also of Miami Mensa, responded to the Snyder article. It appeared in August. Upon reading Ritsema's column, Mel Dahl, Editor of The FLAME, (Central Florida Mensa, Orlando), responded in last month's issue.

Back to our member. She stated she normally did not read The SCAM, but she apparently took notice this time and read the Dahl column (and then Snyder's column in the July issue). Infuriated, she made her request. In doing so, she accused me of specifically seeking articles to promote hatred and fear toward Islam, because of my alleged prejudice toward Muslims. In response, I tried to explain the truth (I was filling extra space), and even invited her to write a rebuttal. She replied that I, indeed, *might* be prejudiced, but just "may not realize it". This is coming from a person with whom I've never had any prior contact and apparently never read my columns. Any of you ever had to "prove" that you were NOT prejudiced?

In my three years as Editor, I have committed many errors, and when these errors hurt someone, I immediately apologize and try to make amends. In this case, however, a member lifted two or three columns out of context, made unjustified assumptions, and dismissed The SCAM as an embarrassment to her. As Editor, I will continue to preserve The SCAM as an open forum for opinions, even unpopular ones. On this count I am, and will continue to be, most unapologetic.

Recently I was forwarded an article that described what is supposedly a new concept in Japanese restaurant dining in Los Angeles. According to the article, izakaya restaurants are the latest fad, claiming to replace sushi bars.

Izakaya restaurants serve small dishes of food rather than multi-course dinners. Depending on the particular restaurant the dishes served may be the traditional Japanese fare such as tempura, yakitori, and sukiyaki, or dishes that are derived from other cuisines such as spicy wonton soup flavored with kimchi, Dungeness crab salad, or Basque sheep's milk cheese. There are also new wave dishes such as duck breast marinated in sake.

The concept of eating small dishes instead of a meal on dinner size plates is not new, it may be universal.

The concept of eating small dishes instead of a meal on dinner size plates is not new, it may be universal. Often, in a restaurant, I will order several appetizers instead of a main course when the appetizers are more appealing than the main dishes. Tapas have been popular in Spain for as long as I have been eating Spanish food and certainly long before that. That's the way I order my meals in the Columbia restaurant in Tampa - a bowl of black bean soup followed by several tapas.

The Spaniards divide tapas into two classes; *naturales*, generally cold, mostly uncooked. Olives head the list, and depending on the locality, items such as oysters, tuna, radishes, shrimp, nuts, and ham. The other class, *de cocina* consist of cooked dishes and may be small portions of some dishes normally served as a main course. *Paella*, liver paté, and fried shrimp are typical.

The Greeks have their Mezes, also consisting of cold and hot dishes. *Humus*, *taramosalata*, *meliznsosalata*, and *tzatziki* are common cold dishes. *Souvlakia*, *kokoretsi*, and *kalamarakis* are among the hot dishes.

The Chinese have Dim Sum which includes dumplings of various sorts, as well as both hot and cold dishes.

The British have their High Teas. High tea, or afternoon tea as it is properly called, is served at four in the afternoon. Small open-faced sandwiches, including watercress, cucumber, and smoked salmon are traditional followed by scones, crumpets, and

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Iwant to express my appreciation to you, Mike, for bringing us an updated Membership Roster. Thanks for all your work for the group!

Helen Lee Moore

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fancy pastries. The tea can be so large and elaborate that I often forgo the evening; meal after such a tea.

The Scandinavians have their smorgasbord. This also is primarily open-faced sandwiches in which fish predominate, but may also include hard-boiled eggs and oysters.

And we, of course, have our cocktail parties with hors d'oeuvres. Hors d'oeuvres are classified as heavy or light.

The Italians have their antipasto. As the name

suggests, Antipasto comes before the meal, but it can be so large and elaborate that it can substitute for the meal itself. In an antipasto there may well be olives, various hams and sausages, cheeses, raw and preserved vegetables, all served cold.

And we, of course, have our cocktail parties with hors d'oeuvres. Hors d'oeuvres are classified as heavy or light. Light d'oeuvres are cold and may have cheese, olives, stuffed celery, and the like. Heavy d'oeuvres will have in addition some hot foods like small hot dogs, roast beef, Swedish meat balls, and quiches.

The purpose of many of these small servings of food is to fill the space between lunch and dinner or more traditionally, between dinner and supper. Although some are not designed to be a substitute for a meal, when they are served at four o'clock in the afternoon or late in the evening they do in practice do just that.

Drinking alcoholic beverages is a requisite (wine for the Spaniards, sake for the Japanese, Martinis for the Americans, aquavit for the Scandinavians, and ouzo for the Greeks) for most of these small meals. Only the Brits stick to tea.

Deb's Corner



Lave you had your glaucoma exam? Did you know less than half of all people with glaucoma even know it? Glaucoma has NO warning signs...and we only have one set of eyes. Can you afford to lose your sight?

If you have not yet been tested for glaucoma, you should get tested as soon as possible. People at higher risk for glaucoma (your doctor will let you know about this...) will need to get a dilated eye exam at least every two years.

Medicare does cover glaucoma exams. For more information please call 1-800-633-4227 (Medicare) or visit online: www.medicare.gov/health/glaucoma.asp.

If you need a referral to an eye professional call:

American Academy of Ophthalmology 1-800-391-3937

American Optometric Association 1-800-262-3947

Or (for glaucoma information), feel free to contact:

National Eye Health
Education Program
2020 Vision Place
Bethesda, MD 20892-3655

Online: www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma

SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY.....

deb

The market was going down, down, down and suddenly it has taken off to upside. What happened? Did someone put a leash on the bear or is he just tired and is taking a rest? Maybe the bull has killed him and has taken charge again.

I like that last idea. Let's examine the facts and I don't mean those told me by those pretty cheerleaders on CNBC-TV. I wonder how many viewers they would lose if they went to old guys who actually knew what they were talking about.

For the recent 6 or 7 weeks the major indexes have relentlessly advanced and the news has been good, good, good. Well, most of it. As a market technician the fact that it has done this on light volume has me worried. Historically volume of trading is the confirming indicator to market direction.

Richard Wyckoff in the 1930s pointed out that it took volume to move the market in any direction. When buyers came out in big numbers and the market went up it was a pretty sure sign it was a bull market. If the volume rose while the market trading volume was falling then the bears were in charge. That is what has been manifesting lately.

Back in the 1920s and '30s there were no hedge funds or huge professional traders as there are today. In fact, there are more than 8,000 hedge funds. About 70% of current trading volume is being done by the pros. The guy with the best computer program wins. It doesn't seem to leave the little guy with much of a chance.

Brokers tell him that he is "in for the long haul" and "not to worry about losses", "the market always comes back" and other such nonsense. These geniuses fail to point out that when a stock or mutual fund goes down 50% it must go up 100% to get back to "even". Once any equity has lost that much it could take a lifetime to recover. Do you have that long?

For the past 100 years the cycles have been running about 16 years up and 16 years down. The start of this down pattern was the year 2000. If you don't believe it run up a chart for the past 6 years and you will see the market has gone nowhere. No, it hasn't broken badly except for the NASDAQ Index, but the lower tops are an indication that is has much lower to go for the DOW and the S&P500.

Hopefully I am scaring you. Many technicians will tell you

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I subscribe to the Times Literary Supplement, which does not seem to be particularly well known in these parts. It's a liberally inclined publication, but not of the same ilk as the New York Times Book Review or the New York Review of Books. I would like to share some of the tidbits I come across that I find insightful, amusing or otherwise interesting.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Times Literary Supplement (or TLS) is a weekly literary review published in London by News International, a subsidiary of News Corporation. It first appeared in 1902 as a supplement to The Times, but became a separate publication in 1914. The TLS cooperates closely with The Times; its online version is hosted on The Times website and its editorial offices are based in the Times House, Pennington Street, London. Many distinguished writers have been contributors, including T. S. Eliot, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf, but reviews were normally anonymous until June 7, 1974. Martin Amis was a member of the editorial staff early in his career. Philip Larkin's poem Aubade was first published in the Christmas-week issue of the TLS in 1977. While it has long been regarded as one of the world's pre-

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that now is a better time to be in bonds or a money market than own any stock. This bear's leash is about to break and you don't want your life savings to be clawed and shredded.

It is better to be out wishing you were in than in wishing you were out.

Al Thomas' best selling book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple 2-step method. Read the first chapter and receive his market letter for 3 months at no charge at www.mutualfundmagic.com and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2006 All rights reserved.

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eminent critical publications, its history is not without gaffes. For instance the publication missed James Joyce entirely.

Now for the tidbits. From the June 30, 2006 issue:

Jonathan Hope, in reviewing two new slang dictionaries, writes that slang dictionaries have a long history and a venerable tradition:

We can trace them back at least to the Liber vagatorum of the late fifteenth century, which started, or rode, a wave of fear. According to the dictionary-makers, the newly monied burghers of Europe were at risk from organized thieves and beggars, roaming the countryside, from town to town, speaking a secret language, "cant". With the aid of a handy word list, the prudent property-owning classes could protect themselves and thwart the rascally knaves who would otherwise turn the social order upside down. In England, keys to "peddler's French" appear across the 16th and 17th centuries.

(Sounds a lot like modern "disease of the week" huckersterism. - GP)

In criticizing the latest book by Karen Armstrong, David Martin writes, ". . . the whole approach is individualistic and psychological in a recognizably North American way." (The TLS shows its UK roots - GP)

In an enthusiastic review of Leonard Cohen's first book of new writing in more than twenty years, Pico Iyer discusses the relation of song writers to writers in general and quotes from Bruce Springsteen's introduction of Bono and U2 at their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last year:

A great rock band searches for the same kind of combustible fire that fueled the expansion of the universe after the big bang. You want the earth to shake and spit fire. You want the sky to split apart and for God to pour out.

Iyer then asks, "When was the last time you heard another writer introduce a colleague like that?"

For those who care about such things, we have, *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will*, by Robert Kane. Saul Smilansky writes, "None of these faults ought to detract from Robert Kane's achievement in this book, which clearly and accurately lays open to the reader the excitement of the contemporary free-will debate."

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SCAM Calendar of Events for October 2006

15th - Sunday 11:00 AM

BRUNCH WITH JIM

Join Jim for Sunday Brunch at the Colossus Restaurant, 380 N. Wickham Road, in Melbourne. You must arrive on time or you may not be seated with our group.

Contact: *Jim Trammel, 242-8985.*

21st - Saturday 7:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Games Night hosted by George and Barbara Patterson at their home in Indialantic. \$3 kitty.

Contact: *George, 777-3721, for directions.*

28th - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1411 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: *Your Newsletter Editor, or e-mail: snort@scam.us.mensa.org.*

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

LuAnne Johnson

Brandi Renshaw

Welcome to SCAM

William Blount

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st James Staal

8th Rex Repich

9th Philip Devlin

25th Christopher Johnson

25th

28th

31st

Doug Starke

Anne Marie Trese

Colette Zahm

Attention!!!

The SCAM is soliciting a column 500-700 words long on the following two topics. If there are enough responses, we may do “theme” issues. Of course, you are always welcome to write on any topic of your choice. Also, if you wish to suggest a topic, please contact the Editor. Contact info is on Page Two (inside front cover).

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) of your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

“Time is the fourth dimension.”

Pawn!

Wake up; our topic today is to re-examine the meaning and roots of this now common-place statement, to expose some limitations and problems with the concept, and to suggest some alternatives.

Regarding time as a dimension is a metaphor. It says that in some sense, time is like a geometrical line. This metaphor was established by Newton and his contemporaries at the dawn of the quantitative approach to physics. It consists of two parts: (1) the numeric metaphor of time (equating the quantitative measure of time intervals via clocks and calendars with the concept of time itself) and (2) the Cartesian analytical geometric metaphor equating numerically measured differences with geometrical distances.

This metaphor has been extremely rich and productive not only in classical physics but also in nearly every field of science and engineering: from chemical kinematics to evolutionary biology and from geophysical prospecting to processing plant design.

Einstein's theory of Special Relativity contains a subtle and sophisticated analysis of time. In his analysis, time measurements are not objective in the absence of a definition of a spatial framework and space measurements are not objective in the absence of a definition of a time framework. Both kinds of measurements must be carried out together. In a sense, neither space nor time is objectively real - instead objective reality adheres to a humanly unperceivable entity which with an unfortunate lack of imagination Einstein dubbed “space-time”.

Like much of quantitative science, the mathematical treatment of space-time is dominated by the Cartesian analytic geometric metaphor. Hence space-time is treated a four-dimensional geometry. As this concept has been presented to the public and as it has lost much of its subtle insight in the translation, it is said that Einstein discovered that time is the fourth dimension.

As an aside, the kind of four-dimensional space that models Einstein's space-time is very strange when compared to ordinary geometry. There are infinite sets of points in so-called space-time geometry which lie at zero distance from each other. Some distances are equated with “*i*”, the non-real square-root of -1. Circles are replaced

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by hyperbolas.

Despite this impressive pedigree, there are many features of time which are not well represented by the geometrical metaphor, such as:

- (1) the association of temporality with the difference between the potential and the actual,
- (2) the similar association with a priori versus a posteriori chance,
- (3) the constantly changing relation between past, present, and future,
- (4) the experience of the eternal now,
- (5) the association of temporality with consciousness, free-will, and the like.

Alternatives to the one-dimensional geometrical metaphor include:

- (1) two and higher dimensional geometrical metaphors (i.e. time is like a plane),
- (2) partial-ordering systems which emphasize the relation of time to networks of cause-effect relations, and
- (3) inverting the metaphor to view space as an impoverished phenomenon that is secondary to a richer reality that is more like time.

These alternatives have rich connections with common sense philosophy, with ancient views of space, time, and motion, and with certain interpretations of Special Relativity (such as my Observer-Centered interpretation of Special Relativity).

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The preceding article was originally published in the May, 2005 issue of Matrix: the Magazine of Denver Mensa, Paul Schnitz, Editor.*

To the SCAM Membership and ExComm:

The Audit Committee has examined the records and documentation of the financial transactions of Space Coast Area Mensa for the period of June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006.

Examination of all journals, receipts, bank statements and Treasurer's reports revealed no discrepancies.

Account balances as of May 31, 2006 were as follows:

General Fund:	\$442.05
General Fund CD:	\$3000.00
Scholarship Fund:	\$282.00
RG Fund:	\$209.30
Post Office Fund:	\$91.14
Total funds:	\$4034.49

Additionally, the Audit Committee commends Bud Long for his diligence and meticulous records.

August 9, 2006

SIGNED:

/s/ Doug Starke
/s/ Karen Freiberg
/s/ Wynn Rostek

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Yes, it really is a very favorable review, although Smilansky can't make up his mind about the hyphen in free-will which comes and goes in his review. Let's see if this book (there's a paperback edition) shows up at Books-A-Million.

From the July 7 issue:

In commenting on *The Bayeux Tapestry*, by Carola Hicks, Peter Mandler writes, “. . . feminists claimed it as an unmistakably feminine work – Agnes Strickland doubted whether men who couldn't sew were entitled even to pronounce on its origins (though, as Hicks nicely shows, Strickland couldn't sew much either)”.

In an article on a book about St. Augustine, a quote from his *Soliloquies* is given as:

Reason: Suppose you have discovered some truth. To whom will you entrust it so that you may proceed to further thought?

Augustine: To my memory, I suppose.

Reason: Can your memory really preserve all your thoughts??

Augustine: That would be difficult, actually impossible.

Reason: Then you must write it down.

Another article begins, “Twenty-first-century international terrorism has inspired a rush of literary and academic ambulance-chasing.”

And finally, in a review of Zoë Anderson’s *The Royal Ballet*, an extended parenthetical remark summarizes the life and death of my favorite ballet company. “(It’s all too familiar to those of us who have followed the whole of the Balanchine enterprise – the random beginnings leading up to the official formation of City Ballet in 1948; the greatness of the company from the 1950’s into the 80’s; its artistic and moral collapse under Peter Martins.) Maybe this is the natural arc of artistic institutions . . .”

At the time of this writing, the first round of negative campaigning is rising to a crescendo, as it is less than a week before primary elections. Of course, negative campaigning and character assassinations are no longer news to anyone. Yet, in the 2006 election cycle, something is vaguely different this time around.

Over the past 4 years, I have written extensively on how the Republicans, as the ruling party, have been systematically screwing the working American at the behest of the “business community”, while distracting us with frivolous nonissues such as gay marriage and whether the Ten Commandments should be on display at courthouses. Yet, as much as the Republicans have angered me with their cavalier bullying, the Democrats have angered me more with their utter cowardice, as they avoided offending the same “business community” lest their corporate funding dry up.

This year, however, it seems the Democrats are making tentative steps in raising workers’ issues. To be sure, this is undoubtedly a scary proposition for all concerned. Let us consider one such example – recent attacks on Wal-Mart by some Democrat candidates.

Consider this recent *New York Times* article.

“(Des Moines, Iowa) Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of Delaware, a likely Democratic presidential candidate in 2008, delivered a 15-minute, blistering attack to warm applause from Democrats and union organizers here on Wednesday. But Mr. Biden’s main target was not Republicans in Washington, or even his presidential rivals; it was Wal-Mart, the nation’s largest private employer.”⁽¹⁾

As Senator Biden explains his reasons for attacking Wal-Mart: “‘My problem with Wal-Mart is that I don’t see any indication that they care about the fate of middle class people,’ Mr. Biden said... ‘They talk about paying them \$10 an hour. That’s true. How can you live a middle-class life on that?’⁽¹⁾

The article continues: “The focus on Wal-Mart is part of a broader strategy of addressing what Democrats say is general economic anxiety and a growing sense that economic gains of recent years have not benefited the middle class or the working poor.⁽¹⁾

What about Wal-Mart, are they willing to tolerate these attacks? Not a chance. In a letter to the 17,000-plus Wal-Mart “associates” (employees) working in their Iowa stores, Tom Under-

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wood, RGM (manager) of “Region 7” advises the associates of scheduled political activities criticizing Wal-Mart, and warns them:

“We believe it’s wrong for these political candidates to attack Wal-Mart...We would never tell you how to vote, but...We want you to know that your voice matters when these political candidates attack your company. We urge you to talk with your friends, your family and your neighbors about the good Wal-Mart does. ...and we will also keep you informed about what these political candidates are saying about your company while on the campaign trail.”⁽²⁾

Wal-Mart’s aggression toward potential adversaries in its ranks has not gone unnoticed. According to a British news article: “*Wal-Mart, America’s largest retailer, is to launch ‘voter education programmes’ aimed at taking on its Democrat critics in the run-up to November’s mid-term elections in the US. ... Leading Democrat politicians are backing an anti-Wal-Mart campaign. It charges the company with exploiting its workers, banning union membership, driving small shopkeepers out of business and scarring the environment.*”⁽³⁾

Sounds a bit scary? Keeping in mind that nearly all Wal-Mart “associates” are employed “at-will” (meaning no reason is necessary to terminate their employment), an employee contemplating becoming politically active might very well be intimidated by such a letter from his employer. My question is, who is scared more? Why would Wal-Mart try to influence the political opinions and activities of its associates? More to the point, why scare its employees?

It would appear to me that these are scary times for firms such as Wal-Mart. After all, the Republicans, the darlings of Big Business, have been the party in power now for quite some time. Fourteen years ago, they took over both houses of Congress. The George W. arrived with 9/11 following shortly thereafter to solidify his power.

So, what changed now? The War on Iraq has now revealed itself for the sham it really is. Our economy is doing quite well – unless you work for a living. Both of these facts are now too obvious to ignore. The Democrats, finally emerging from their rather cowardly “centrist” policies, are finally speaking up for the working America – and it seems they might win one or both houses of congress back.

Could it then be the days of cozy government complicity with Big Business policies of exploitation are finally coming to an end? While nothing is guaranteed, there certainly is a ray of hope for us – if we

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have the courage. Enough hope for us, in fact, that it is definitely scary for them. As for us, will we let our employers dictate our votes; such as Wal-Mart is apparently doing? Or will we be too scared to stand up for ourselves at the polls as businesses hope we will? It truly is up to us.

Sources:

1. "Eye on Election, Democrats Run as Wal-Mart Foe," Adam Nagourney and Michael Barbaro, *New York Times*, August 17, 2006.
2. Letter to Wal-Mart Associates dated August 15, 2006 from Tom Underwood, RGM, Region 7, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
3. "Democrat Critics Threatened with Wal-Mart 'Army,'" Stephen Foley, *The Independent*, Online Edition, 20 August 2006.

I MARRIED A MENSAN

Frank M. Mina

Jmet Jenifer on a cyber dating internet program and found her to be highly intelligent. Meeting her in person and noticing her bumper sticker (Mensa) afforded me trepidations. Were Mensans snobs, as I was led to believe by others, or the real upper 2 percent? She told me the story of the policeman stopping her for allegedly speeding, but the first thing he mentioned was the Mensa bumper sticker. (She didn't get the ticket, I guess her intelligence won out).

Anyway we decided to go to the World Gathering on our honeymoon, incidentally we both lost our spouses to cancer, so this is a new love for us.

I had a lot of anxieties about going to the world gathering, but found the WG Mensans fascinating. The knowledge and humor were outstanding. The sessions were interesting, entertaining and informative. I had a tough time getting the tune "Mensalot" out of my head for days after. The 2 percent show was hilarious. The other sessions were equally enjoyable. I was astonished, Mensans are class people. An enjoyable honeymoon. I feel marrying a Mensan was a fine step for me.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations to SCAM member Jenifer Zito and Frank Mina on their recent marriage. Welcome to our family!

JIt looks like 2007 will see Region 10 return to having multiple RGs available. I would have gone into withdrawal if it wasn't for the World Gathering. Central Florida will be hosting its Smarti Gras RG at the end of January, and Northwest Florida will be hosting its ValenTime RG in mid February. Both of these groups have a history of putting on excellent RGs. I heartily recommend both of them. If you don't find information available in your local newsletter, you can download the registration form/information for both of them from the Region 10 website at <region10.us.mensa.org> . (NOTE: At the time of this writing, I have not yet received the forms. They should be on the website by the time you read this.)

It was good to see so many of our Region 10 members at the World Gathering. It did my heart good to see how many of us chose to volunteer to make it the best gathering ever. I believe there were many for whom that was their first ever gathering. What a way to start! I well imagine that those folks are already planning to attend the Annual Gathering next July in Birmingham, Alabama.

I will be attending the fall AMC meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, on the weekend of October 13-15. The agenda for that meeting is on the national website. If you wish to discuss with me any of the issues on that agenda, please email or phone me by October 12. Your input is always welcome.

October 21 is Mensa Testing Day (formerly known as National Testing Day). Is your group participating?

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The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, August 30, 2006. Called to order at 5:41 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Joe Smith, Bud Long, and Thomas Wheat. Terry Valek was unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None.

Minutes of the July 5 meeting, as published in the August 2006 SCAM, were approved unanimously.

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George reported that he had appointed Karen Freiberg as a replacement for Ellen Paul as a member of the Audit committee, Ellen having left the area before the audit was performed.

Treasurer: Bud submitted the July and August Treasurer's Reports. The August report showed total funds of \$3966.65. He reported that the Audit Committee had completed its audit.

Testing: Bud Long (Proctor) reported that two people were tested in July. There was no test in August.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Treasurer Bud Long observed that the current CD of \$3000 was coming due and said he felt the best action was to move \$500 to the General fund and consolidate the remainder with the RG fund and the Scholarship fund in a savings account at Riverside Bank. As in the past, the ExComm was not sure a motion was needed for Bud to take this action but felt it would do no harm to do so. Consequently, Joe moved and Tom seconded that the Treasurer close out the CD, move \$500 to the general fund checking account and consolidate the remainder with the RG fund and the Scholarship fund in a savings account. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe moved to adjourn at 6:01 pm, passed by unanimous vote. The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30 pm** at George Patterson's house, 301 Sand Pine Road, Indialantic.

(321-777-3721)